

# ABSTRACT

The invention provides biopolymer sponge tubes closed  
5 at one end for use in surgery. The preferred biopolymer  
is collagen. The biopolymer sponge tubes are prepared by  
forming an aqueous dispersion of the biopolymer,  
introducing the dispersion into tube-shaped moulds,  
freezing the dispersion in the moulds to form a shaped,  
10 aqueous dispersion, followed by freeze-drying the frozen  
aqueous dispersion. The tubes are fitted over endoscopic  
surgical staplers to provide improved sealing of stapled  
tissues, especially for air-tight sealing in lung  
resections.

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